THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Blue Dye has been introduced to PDS Kerosene in order to visually distinguish it from kerosene marketed by Parallel marketeers and sold under parallel marketing system. To start with, 48 locations supplying about 70 per cent of total kerosene quantity in the country have been covered. The rest of the locations in the country are being covered in a phased manner.

Regularisation of casual workmen

2914. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed any policy under which causal workmen can be regularised in a set period of time, if not, whether such policy is under consideration and the time framed fixed, if any; and

(b) whether Government are looking for abolishing the casual employment system in IOC and if so, what steps are being taken to implement the principle "Equal pay for equal work" and other statutory benefits like P.F., Bonus, LTC, Medical benefits etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) IOS is engaging casuals for unskilled jobs. IOC is meeting the statutory requirements with regard to payment of wages and providing ESI benefits. Ex-gratia payment according to the Bonus Act is made to the eligible casuals as they are not in regular employment of IOC. PF is not paid. LTC benefit is not granted as the same is payable to only regular employees.

Opening of New LPG agencies in Darjeeling

2915. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations/applications from the people of different areas in Darjeeling for opening new LPG agencies in view of the growing scarcity of fuel in those areas;

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to take thereon; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Requests are received from time to time from various parts of the country including Darjeeling for opening of more LPG distributorships. As per present policy places having population of 20,000 and above are considered for setting up LPG distributorships in a phased manner subject to economic viability and product availability.

Supreme Court's order regarding contract labour in LPG plants of IOC at Shakurbasti

2916. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Supreme Court passed an order on 23rd March, 1987 to the effect that Contract Labour working in Shakurbasti LPG Plant of Indian Oil Corporation will be employed by the Indian Oil Corporation as regular employees;

(b) if so, whether the above orders have been implemented by the Indian Oil Corporation Managmnt; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) IOC had engaged a haulage contractor at Shakurbasti LPG plant. The contractor had abandoned the contract and the contractor's labourers through Petroleum Workers Union (Private workers Unit) had filed a petition in Supreme Court in 1986. Supreme Court had passed order on 23.4.1987 directing IOC to take steps to induct such of those labourers whose names were mentioned in the petition as and when occasion arises to fill up existing or future vacancies and to regularise their services. Petroleum Workers Union and IOC management entered into an agreement on 16-2-88 empanelling the above contract labourers as casuals and to regularise them in future as and when vacancies arise as per practice in vogue.

IOC had closed Shakurbasti plant and a new plant at Tigri Kalan was started. The regular employees of Shakurbasti plant were redeployed at Tikri Kalan besides absorbing land losers and some of the empanelled according to seniority. One of the casuals on behalf of other casuals filed a petition in Supreme Court in 1990 and again in April 1991; both these petitions were dismissed.

Gas pipelines operated by Gail

2917. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the breakup of the kilometre of the popeline operated by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) State-wise;

(b) the details of the power and fertilizer plants and industrial consumers to whom this gas is being supplied;

(c) the criteria followed in selecting the plants or industrial consumers for supply of gas through the pipeline; and

(d) the reasons for not supplying this gas to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) A statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) At present, GAL is supplying gas to 13 fertilizer plants, 17 power plants and other industrial units.

(c) Allocations of gas are generally based on the Imputed Economic Values (IEVs) of natural gas with priority being given to fertilizer, power and sponge iron units.

(d) Natural gas is being supplied at present to the National Fertilizer Ltd., Baijapur, and to the GAIL's LPG plant at Bijaipur.

Statement

Gas pipelines operated by GAIL

State	Length of the Pipeline (kms)
1	2
Maharashtra	993
Andhra Pradesh	217